

Artist/Title: Alan Sondheim with Christopher Diasparra & Edward Schneider: *Cutting Board*

Catalog #: ESP5004 **UPC:** 825481500425

Release date: October 29, 2014

Genre: "Experimental"

List Price: \$12.99

Contact: steve@espdisk.com

Track Listing:

1. Xenon	5:38	8. Oxygen	5:36
2. Argon	7:35	9. Nitrogen	4:18
3. Neon	3:18	10. Germanium	4:16
4. Krypton	2:21	11. Platinum	5:02
5. Helium	6:44	12. Iridium	9:53
6. Carbon	5:15	13. Cobalt	4:18
7. Silicon	5:37	Total	1:09:51



The release party for this album will take place on November 12 at JACK (www.jackny.org), 505 1/2 Waverly Ave. between Fulton and Atlantic in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. C or G train to Clinton-Washington.

Personnel: **Alan Sondheim**, ghichak, cura, chromatic harmonica, Chinese mouth harp, saz, tro so, electric saz, sarangi, sung lisu, ukulele, flute, cura cumbus, classical guitar; **Christopher Diasparra**, tenor and baritone saxophones; **Edward Schneider**, alto saxophone

Bio: Alan Sondheim (www.alansondheim.org) was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; he lives with his partner, Azure Carter in Providence, RI. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from Brown University. A new-media artist, writer, and theorist, he has exhibited, performed and lectured widely. His band Ritual All 70, whose debut *The Songs* (Riverboat, 1967) was reissued by the Fire Museum label, was included on the notorious Nurse with Wound list of outsider/avant-garde influences.

Overview (excerpted from the liner notes):

Sondheim is the first artist from ESP-Disk's 1964-75 heyday to return, since it was revived in 2005, to issue an album of new material on the fabled label. Sondheim joined the roster with a 1967 session, *Ritual-All-7-70*, then followed up with 1968's *T'Other Little Tune*. Sondheim got his musical start as a guitarist, but soon moved into a much more original sound utilizing a vast array of instruments from around the world. *Cutting Board*, his eighth album, is his first instrumental group album; his other albums have always either been solo (and there are two solo tracks on *Cutting Board* as well) or featured female vocalists. Though he's a pure improviser, Sondheim rightly insists that he doesn't play jazz; even playing with two saxophonists, he's outside that tradition's spectrum. The eclecticism of the sounds he's working with sonically can tenuously seem to connect him to world music, but he doesn't play the instruments in traditional ways. And on rare occasions you can hear the blues lurking, but it's not likely that *Living Blues* will be putting him on the cover. Maybe if somebody starts a music magazine (or website) called *Beyond Category*, then Sondheim can be a cover subject.

Press Quotes:

Of *Ritual-All-7-70*: "...if there is a concept here, it's extremely simple: you never heard such sounds in your life." – **Clifford Allen**, *Bagatellen*

Of *Avatar Woman*: "...be prepared to listen to universes growing and collapsing within their sound worlds." – **disasteramnesiac.blogspot.ca**